

**Ph.D. in Economics
CIP Change Request
University of South Florida**

Board of Governors' Staff Analysis
June 2026



Rationale for CIP Reclassification

The University of South Florida (USF) proposes changing the CIP code for the Ph.D. in Economics, CIP 45.0601, to CIP 45.0603, Econometrics and Quantitative Economics. The request is based on the evolution of the curriculum since the program was approved by the Board of Governors in 2010. The program curriculum remains broad in economic content and continues to require two fields of study, which may include the economics of health care, industrial organization, labor economics, and urban and regional economics. However, the curriculum has evolved to place greater emphasis on the role of quantitative and econometric methods across these fields. This evolution is reflected in the expansion of the course sequences in econometrics, macroeconomics, labor economics, economic policy analysis, and forecasting.

The National Center for Education Statistics defines CIP 45.0603, Econometrics and Quantitative Economics, as a program that focuses on the systematic study of economic phenomena using mathematical and statistical analysis, including econometrics, optimization theory, economic modeling, and forecasting. This definition aligns with the structure and content of USF's curriculum.

Graduates of the program will continue to be prepared for research-intensive careers in economics. The proposed CIP change will have no impact on the program's budget, current curriculum, faculty, or resources. The university will continue to charge the approved graduate-level tuition for both in-state and out-of-state students.

If the CIP code change is approved by the Board of Governors, the university will implement the change effective fall 2026.

Table 1: Program Summary

Ph.D. in Econometrics and Quantitative Economics	
Tuition per Credit Hour	Standard approved graduate tuition rates for resident & non-resident students
Delivery Mode	Traditional
Location	Main Campus
Graduation Requirements	72 Graduate Credit Hours
Effective Date	Fall 2026

Source: University of South Florida CIP Change Request

Reclassifying the program to CIP 45.0603, Econometrics and Quantitative Economics, will align the program with peer institutions that classify similar doctoral programs under this CIP. Florida State University, Florida International University, and the University of Florida offer research doctorates under CIP 45.0603. The University of South Florida’s program would be the fourth Ph.D. program in the System. The proposed reclassification would also ensure consistency across degree levels at the institution, as USF offers a Bachelor of Science in Econometrics and Quantitative Economics, and will begin offering a Master of Arts in this CIP effective fall 2026.

Table 3 shows the number of doctoral degrees awarded across the System in Econometrics and Quantitative Economics over the past three academic years, as well as the number of degrees awarded by the University of South Florida in the existing Ph.D. in Economics program proposed for reclassification.

Table 3: Degrees Awarded, Ph.D. in Econometrics & Quantitative Economics, CIP 45.0603

Institution	2022-23	2023-24	2024-25
FIU	6	1	4
FSU	2	3	5
UF	9	9	6
USF ¹	5	0	5
Total	22	13	20

¹ USF degree counts reflect the Ph.D. in Economics (CIP 45.0601), which is proposed for reclassification to Econometrics and Quantitative Economics (CIP 45.0603) effective fall 2026.

Source: Board Office of Data Analytics, Degrees Awarded by CIP, retrieved 5/12/2026.

Conclusion and Board Staff Comments

The University of South Florida has provided sufficient information to support the administrative reclassification of the Ph.D. in Economics from CIP 45.0601 to CIP 45.0603. The proposed change does not alter the program’s current curriculum, admissions standards, degree requirements, faculty, or resources. The reclassification more accurately reflects the program’s current emphasis on econometrics and quantitative analysis throughout the curriculum. Board staff have no concerns about the proposed CIP code change.

